

11:35:00 1 to the revolving loan, whether I believed it was a fair
11:35:05 2 loan, a payday loan, whatever, I wanted to have a zero
11:35:09 3 balance. I wanted to have Kinney and I move on with our
11:35:14 4 lives and cooperate, perhaps we could work on projects
11:35:20 5 together. I just didn't feel that I should have to stay
11:35:23 6 working for him for the rest of my life in this situation.
11:35:31 7 Q. So you haven't brought any of these other people in
11:35:33 8 that you claim have done some analysis that shows that you
11:35:37 9 owe -- or you're owed another 40-something-thousand
11:35:42 10 dollars to provide us any evidence of any additional
11:35:44 11 credits that your --
11:35:45 12 A. I understand it's far past the time to have an expert
11:35:50 13 witness, but I understand that my attorneys have relied on
11:35:57 14 expertise of forensic accountants or people in that sort
11:36:00 15 of field in preparing for this trial. And that's -- and I
11:36:09 16 -- while I haven't been inquiring about this so much
11:36:11 17 because I've been more preparing -- I've been working,
11:36:15 18 trying to keep my company going, prepare for my own
11:36:18 19 testimony, but, you know, it's been mentioned to me that
11:36:25 20 the company owed me money when I left. So it's been
11:36:30 21 mentioned to me by my legal team.
11:36:32 22 Q. When you say you're trying to keep your company
11:36:34 23 going, what company is that?
11:36:35 24 A. Well, I consider my company is Jowers Vargas, right?
11:36:40 25 But that's the trade name that we use. Now, in the U.S.,

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11:36:44 1 it's Jowers Vargas, LLC as the official registered name
11:36:48 2 with Florida. And then, in Hong Kong, there's a company
11:36:51 3 called Legis Ventures Hong Kong Company Limited, which is
11:36:54 4 the registered name. But we don't use that name in trade,
11:37:00 5 except law firms for legal reasons prefer to sign
11:37:06 6 placement fee agreements with us with our official, you
11:37:10 7 know, Hong Kong name, instead of our D/B/A, right, or
11:37:16 8 doing business as Jowers Vargas.

11:37:20 9 So yes. If you ask me who do I work for, what
11:37:23 10 company am I a partner of, have ownership interest in, I
11:37:27 11 would just say Jowers Vargas.

11:37:28 12 Q. And Jowers Vargas is -- consists of three companies,
11:37:33 13 Legis Ventures of Hong Kong, the Jowers Vargas, LLC in
11:37:35 14 Florida, and the Jowers Langer, LLC in Florida?

11:37:39 15 A. Yes, although Jowers Langer is a company that still
11:37:44 16 exists, but we're not really -- we were never doing
11:37:48 17 business as Jowers Langer. My initial plan was that there
11:37:53 18 would be a Jowers group and that we would have several
11:37:58 19 companies around the world with my key partners in those
11:38:02 20 regions, and there would be a Jowers Vargas in Hong Kong,
11:38:06 21 a Jowers Langer in New York, a Jowers this or that
11:38:08 22 somewhere else.

11:38:10 23 We just started to be known as Jowers Vargas and
11:38:17 24 Adam Langer, who was a partner in our business, he left to
11:38:20 25 start his own company. And, you know, we have an amazing

11:38:25 1 recruiter in the U.S. and she -- you know, she preferred
11:38:32 2 that -- everyone preferred it be Jowers Vargas, so we just
11:38:35 3 -- it wouldn't be confusing to clients. So we kind of had
11:38:38 4 a partner kind of company colleagues decision, hey, we're
11:38:41 5 just going to be Jowers Vargas, you know, and people sort
11:38:45 6 of didn't like my idea and plans of having this Jowers
11:38:48 7 group with ten different Jowers this or that.

11:38:50 8 I just didn't want my company to be called the
11:38:54 9 Evan Jowers company the Jowers company. I just didn't
11:38:57 10 feel comfortable. It's a little embarrassing.

11:39:00 11 Q. And are you recruiting for that company?

11:39:06 12 A. I am -- you know, I own. I'm an owner of Jowers
11:39:14 13 Vargas, LLC. I'm a director of Legis Ventures if we're
11:39:18 14 going to use the official registered name. I'm
11:39:21 15 technically not an owner of Legis Ventures, which is
11:39:23 16 really just -- I would say it's not semantics. It's real.
11:39:29 17 When I left Kinney, you know, I was trying my best to
11:39:34 18 cooperate with the Hong Kong government as to why I had
11:39:36 19 been working there illegally for a couple of years. I
11:39:40 20 needed a company to sponsor the work visa but Legis
11:39:45 21 Ventures didn't -- was a new company that Alejandro Vargas
11:39:48 22 had formed before I left. And I was advised by lawyers at
11:39:55 23 the Withers Bergman or Withers worldwide, they go by now,
11:40:01 24 I was advised by their immigration lawyers that the only
11:40:05 25 way I could get a work visa is if Legis Ventures were to

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11:40:12 1 sponsor me. And the immigration department would not have
11:40:17 2 liked it if I was already an owner and right away,
11:40:22 3 officially like living in Hong Kong again.

11:40:25 4 So it took us a long time to get the work visa,
11:40:29 5 the Hong Kong residence card. It was probably -- I mean,
11:40:33 6 it was an expensive and long process and which was very
11:40:38 7 much complicated by the fact that -- by the situation I
11:40:41 8 was in from 18 months from mid '15 to the end of '16 where
11:40:48 9 I was living and working in Hong Kong but without a work
11:40:50 10 visa, without a residency card. Yeah. To be honest, I
11:40:57 11 thought I was going to be arrested.

11:41:00 12 I had a lot of reasons to leave Kinney. I
11:41:03 13 thought I was in corporate bondage for ten years, but the
11:41:06 14 consequences of leaving and facing a lawsuit and having my
11:41:09 15 commissions withheld from me and being in this five-year
11:41:13 16 litigation were so extreme that I don't know if I would
11:41:16 17 have left if it wasn't what finally pushed me to take the
11:41:20 18 risk of leaving, and that's that I was in a situation
11:41:24 19 where I had been informed by persons that were in the know
11:41:29 20 who had spoken to Kinney, and I also saw that 18 months
11:41:33 21 went by and I obviously was lied to about the work visa.

11:41:37 22 But I also understood that my former colleague,
11:41:41 23 Alexis Lamb, he waited two years to give her a work visa,
11:41:46 24 but she got one eventually. So even though she was
11:41:49 25 working illegally, not by her choice in Hong Kong for two

11:41:52 1 years, she eventually got it. And my first twelve months
11:41:55 2 in Hong Kong, I hit my highest revenue I'd ever done in
11:41:59 3 twelve months at Kinney.

11:42:00 4 So I thought okay, he's going to come through and
11:42:02 5 this was some sort of carrot, even though it was the legal
11:42:05 6 requirement and it was promised to me. But I realized
11:42:07 7 that was never going to happen. And when I confronted him
11:42:12 8 about that after I left, when I was still willing to work
11:42:15 9 things out, he admitted that he had gotten legal advice
11:42:19 10 from the Gall Law Firm and that he had decided shortly
11:42:23 11 after I moved to Hong Kong to never give me a work visa.
11:42:27 12 And so, there was really had I not left Kinney, I was -- I
11:42:33 13 think I would eventually have been arrested. It was too
11:42:38 14 profitable for Kinney to allow me to come back to the U.S.

11:42:42 15 You know, the revenue, the profits were off the
11:42:45 16 charts. You know, I was --

11:42:49 17 MR. MORT: I'm going to object.

11:42:50 18 THE COURT: Ask a question.

11:42:51 19 Q. (BY MR. MORT) So has -- if we call it Legis, we have
11:42:58 20 a common understanding it's the three companies you just
11:43:02 21 referred to?

11:43:02 22 A. Sure. Yes.

11:43:03 23 Q. So since the beginning of 2007 -- Legis is your
11:43:09 24 company, right?

11:43:09 25 A. 2017?

11:43:10 1 Q. I'm sorry. But Legis is your company, correct?

11:43:14 2 A. I'm the director of it. Technically, Alejandro
11:43:19 3 Vargas is the hundred-percent owner. But yes. I have --
11:43:23 4 I've never denied that I have -- I'm one of the persons
11:43:28 5 who controls the company. Well, the way that we divide
11:43:31 6 our --

11:43:31 7 Q. Sir, we just had a --

11:43:33 8 A. It's not my company. Legally, I don't own it, but I
11:43:36 9 don't think that's -- I think that's not really, legally,
11:43:41 10 I don't own it, but I'm not trying to make some legal
11:43:44 11 argument that I don't own it, okay? Legally, I'm not an
11:43:48 12 owner of Legis. That's just a matter of us changing the
11:43:52 13 paperwork at some point, it just it hasn't -- I couldn't
11:43:56 14 be an owner initially of Legis. I didn't have -- you
11:44:00 15 can't apply for a work visa on your own in Hong Kong. You
11:44:03 16 can't just show up and ask for a work visa. I've started
11:44:06 17 my new business. A company has to sponsor a work visa for
11:44:10 18 you.

11:44:11 19 So that's why I couldn't be an owner for some
11:44:17 20 time, and since then, I became the director, which, you
11:44:23 21 know, I've taken a lot of -- I think I became a director
11:44:26 22 at some point in 2020, which I'm taking on a lot of
11:44:31 23 responsibility and liability in that sense and that I'm
11:44:34 24 basically running the company. But when you say this is
11:44:36 25 my company, yeah, I don't own Legis. But what I can say,

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11:44:41 1 the way that we -- we look at Jowers Vargas as one entity
11:44:45 2 even though legally, technically, it's not, right? And we
11:44:48 3 look at I -- initially, it was 60 percent, I was an owner.
11:44:56 4 Yuliya Vinokurova was 30 percent and Alejandro Vargas was
11:45:00 5 10 percent, okay?

11:45:02 6 The changes we've made as far as how we look at
11:45:05 7 it and the way that, you know, once we -- if there's a
11:45:10 8 point where we're sharing in profits -- because the
11:45:12 9 company, despite all the revenue and everything, hasn't
11:45:15 10 been so profitable. But we have now -- Alexis Lamb is so
11:45:23 11 important to the company that she now is -- I took eight
11:45:27 12 percent from my 60 and gave to her; so now it's 52, 30, 10
11:45:34 13 8. I'm 52. Yuliya Vinokurova is 30. Alexis Lamb -- oh,
11:45:40 14 excuse me, Alejandro Vargas is 10. Alexis Lamb is 8.

11:45:44 15 And I have plans to give more of my percentage of
11:45:50 16 ownership to others in the future that have certainly, you
11:45:55 17 know, earned it, but that's kind of how we look at it
11:45:59 18 internally. But for legal purposes, I'm not yet an owner
11:46:05 19 of the Legis Ventures Hong Kong Company, Limited. When I
11:46:08 20 became a director in 2020, I haven't been back to Hong
11:46:11 21 Kong since then. And it hasn't really been important to
11:46:14 22 us to like change that paperwork.

11:46:18 23 In the U.S. company, you know, it's a small
11:46:21 24 operation, you know, but the partners -- we have an
11:46:25 25 understanding of what our ownership interest is and how we

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11:46:28 1 would share profits. I mean, it's kind of silly to even
11:46:32 2 talk about how valuable the company may be in the future,
11:46:36 3 but all of that will be ironed out. I've made promises to
11:46:39 4 people and I intend to keep them as far as what the
11:46:41 5 percentage ownership is.

11:46:46 6 Q. So at all times, have you been 52 percent or higher
11:46:49 7 owner of the interest in the companies?

11:46:54 8 A. From the beginning, it was understood by the initial
11:46:59 9 three cofounders, me, Yuliya and Alejandro -- is it okay
11:47:05 10 if I just use their first names?

11:47:07 11 Q. I think it's better if you use their last.

11:47:09 12 A. Okay. Yuliya Vinokurova is a key cofounder. She put
11:47:14 13 up a lot of -- she put up the most of the initial
11:47:17 14 investment for the company. So she's -- and she's very
11:47:20 15 important to my practice. So she's 30 percent. Alejandro
11:47:25 16 Vargas is 10 percent. Now, the reason why he's less is
11:47:28 17 because while he's very important to the company, he's
11:47:31 18 also the CEO and the general counsel of a successful
11:47:34 19 startup Lingble, which is now going through like series B
11:47:38 20 financing. So he and I were going to do things 50-50, but
11:47:43 21 he couldn't commit full-time. So that's why it was 60,
11:47:47 22 30, 10.

11:47:48 23 Alexis joined in 2017 and I always had an idea of
11:47:53 24 this role Alexis could play in our company. Just like I
11:47:56 25 had for Yuliya and Alejandro. So she joined and has been

11:48:02 1 really -- she really runs the company. I would say Alexis
11:48:06 2 in many ways is like our CEO, sort of. Our manager,
11:48:10 3 right? Our director, so to speak. And so, of course, you
11:48:14 4 know, she should have an ownership interest. That's why I
11:48:19 5 kind of lopped off. Whenever I want to give an ownership
11:48:22 6 interest out, it's going to come from me, not from the
11:48:25 7 other partners. So yeah. And I have plans to lower my
11:48:29 8 interest going forward, but has nothing to do with
11:48:31 9 litigation strategy, if that's what you're getting at.
11:48:33 10 Q. Amongst all the owners, you had a majority interest
11:48:36 11 at all times?
11:48:37 12 A. Yes. I've been 52 to 60 percent in the way we look
11:48:41 13 at it internally. Again, in a legal sense and what's on
11:48:48 14 paper at Legis, I don't even own one percent. But we've
11:48:51 15 always thought of it as partners that I had 60, and then,
11:48:54 16 it dropped to 52 when we -- when Alexis became a partner.
11:49:01 17 Q. And if we go back to after -- the day after you left
11:49:08 18 Mr. Kinney's company.
11:49:09 19 A. Okay.
11:49:10 20 Q. Has Legis enjoyed success since then to today?
11:49:17 21 A. I would say so. Yeah.
11:49:18 22 Q. Well, you talked earlier today, you were bragging
11:49:20 23 you've made 80 placements.
11:49:22 24 A. No. This has been a great year. We made -- yeah,
11:49:24 25 we've made -- we're a small -- it depends how you define

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11:49:28 1 success. We're a very small team, you know, so we're
11:49:33 2 basically two front line recruiters. We have a U.S.
11:49:36 3 recruiter, then we have me in Asia, then we have
11:49:38 4 management and support, you know, that's how I -- my
11:49:42 5 vision was to build a recruiting company.

11:49:45 6 So yes. This year, we've had 79 placements.
11:49:50 7 That's great for a company our size. You look at a
11:49:53 8 company like Lateral Link, I think they've made 600
11:49:56 9 placements this year. So it just depends on how you
11:49:59 10 define success. I think we've been -- it's been difficult
11:50:05 11 because we've had to deal with a lot of obstacles. We've
11:50:08 12 had to deal with legal fees, we've had to deal with other
11:50:13 13 issues. Of course, we all dealt with the pandemic in
11:50:16 14 various ways.

11:50:17 15 So while we've been successful, you know --
11:50:21 16 again, please stop me from elaborating whenever you'd like
11:50:24 17 because I don't want to do anything wrong. But the way I
11:50:26 18 operate differently is like, for example, my recruiter in
11:50:30 19 the U.S., Cat, who I have sort of a protege of mine I've
11:50:37 20 mentored, she's probably going to make -- well, at the
11:50:40 21 very minimum, she's going to make -- she's going to make
11:50:42 22 more than one million U.S. dollars this year in
11:50:45 23 commissions because I pay her 65 to 85 percent commission.
11:50:50 24 Even though I helped close deals, I'm involved.

11:50:53 25 Just because we make placements, it doesn't

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12:06:10 1 And Constantine Pappas, I do recall the name, but I don't
12:06:14 2 think I spent that much time. But yes, I'll say our team
12:06:18 3 Jowers Vargas made these.

12:06:21 4 Q. And we're referring to the Nos. 35 to 53 on the third
12:06:26 5 slide.

12:06:26 6 A. Yeah. I apologize because now that I'm -- once we
12:06:30 7 start going more in time, there were placements that Adam
12:06:36 8 Langer made once he came on board, which was October 2018.
12:06:41 9 Once he came on board, there were placements being made in
12:06:44 10 the U.S., which I would not have recollection of because I
12:06:48 11 wasn't really involved. If it was a partner-level person,
12:06:53 12 I got heavily involved. But we're going to start seeing
12:06:56 13 names that I don't remember. And now that we're looking
12:07:01 14 in 2019, that's probably why Constantine Pappas, Kyle
12:07:06 15 Menges, I don't remember those people, but I consider the
12:07:10 16 U.S. part of the company as part of the team. But I can't
12:07:15 17 -- it's hard for me just off the top of my head to --
12:07:21 18 Khadijah Owens, that was someone that the U.S. team made
12:07:23 19 that I wasn't really so involved in, for example. Cat
12:07:28 20 made that. So yeah. But.

12:07:32 21 Q. You mentioned Adam Langer, did he work for the Jowers
12:07:35 22 Langer, LLC?

12:07:36 23 A. Yes, but we -- we had formed that and we were about
12:07:41 24 to start marketing it, but then, he decided to leave the
12:07:44 25 company. And then, my U.S. team and my Hong Kong team

12:07:50 1 said, hey, let's just forget about all this Jowers this,
12:07:53 2 Jowers that. Just keep it Jowers Vargas. But he made
12:07:58 3 some placements. And then, the person that kind of took
12:08:03 4 over his lead role in the U.S., Cat. Wow, you know, she's
12:08:08 5 -- she makes a lot placements. And sometimes I'm involved
12:08:11 6 and sometimes not. So yeah.

12:08:13 7 Q. And you're the CEO of Jowers Langer, LLC?

12:08:19 8 A. Jowers Langer still exists, I guess technically as an
12:08:23 9 entity. I've never had the CEO -- we prefer -- I prefer
12:08:29 10 -- Yuliya, Yuliya Vinokurova, Alejandro Vargas and myself
12:08:34 11 we're cofounders. No one has any other title, you know,
12:08:37 12 president, CEO. We just don't have that. Maybe we will
12:08:40 13 one day, if it's necessary. We also have partners, Adam
12:08:45 14 Langer, we considered a partner.

12:08:47 15 Q. Sir, I'm just asking your position at this time. I'm
12:08:52 16 showing you -- have you seen this before? This is a
12:09:01 17 document identifying the information for Jowers Langer,
12:09:04 18 LLC. Do you see this?

12:09:06 19 A. Yes. We had a company -- we still have a company
12:09:10 20 Jowers Langer, LLC. It's been really merged in with
12:09:14 21 Jowers Vargas.

12:09:14 22 Q. I want to direct you to -- highlight it for you.
12:09:19 23 It's on the second page here. Do you see your name Evan
12:09:23 24 Jowers?

12:09:23 25 A. That's right.

12:09:23 1 Q. Do you see the title CEO?

12:09:26 2 A. Somebody filled that in. I don't -- I wouldn't have

12:09:31 3 called myself the CEO but if -- great. It says I'm the

12:09:36 4 CEO. Whatever that --

12:09:36 5 Q. You have ownership and control interest in Jowers

12:09:39 6 Vargas -- sorry, Jowers Langer?

12:09:42 7 A. The way we have that set up is, Adam Langer had 50

12:09:47 8 percent and I have 50 percent. He left the company.

12:09:51 9 Q. The title for Adam was other?

12:09:54 10 A. Okay. That's what it says.

12:10:05 11 Q. I want to change topics slightly to a gentleman by

12:10:09 12 the name of Mr. Kang, which we have all gotten to know a

12:10:13 13 little bit more of. You first met Mr. Kang back in 2009,

12:10:20 14 2010; is that correct?

12:10:21 15 A. No. I forget exactly when I met him. We both had

12:10:28 16 gone to Oxford for part of our legal education and we met

12:10:32 17 through friends that way. I recall that I have known him

12:10:36 18 since 2007, when he started his career. When he finished

12:10:41 19 his -- he started his career at Cleary, I think in London,

12:10:46 20 and he was already reaching out to me for advice through

12:10:48 21 the -- there was a greeting associates board and I was the

12:10:55 22 HK recruiter on that board.

12:10:57 23 Q. Sir, I'm just trying to get right now --

12:10:58 24 A. Okay. I don't remember exactly but it was -- I think

12:11:01 25 it was around 2007 when he first reached out to me and

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